

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4718

1. Name

Historic 1728-1738 North Duncan Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 1728-1738 North Duncan Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both
Public Acquisition
☐ in process
☐ being considered
☐ not applicable

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military
☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of six two-story, two-bay wide houses late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal and brick cornices were built in 1893 by George and Henry Cook, builders of working class houses in East Baltimore. All of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were originally painted and striped. Evidence remains that the basements were originally painted white, in imitation of the marble used on more expensive houses. After the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal and stepped-back bricks became the predominant materials used. This decorative brickwork represents a vernacular translation of high-style Queen Anne designs first seen in Baltimore rowhouses c. 1880, but on these houses an unusually simple design is used.

The houses are two stories in height, 11' wide, and occupy lots 45' deep. Each house is two rooms deep with a one-story rear kitchen addition. The houses are constructed in running bond and have been painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The shed roof is capped by a continuous sheet metal crown molding set above a brick frieze created by running two rows of projecting stretcher bricks above three rows of slightly less projecting stretcher bricks.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, composed of a double row of header bricks, with scroll-sawn tympanums. The sills are wood. A few sets of original 2/2 sash remain. The doorways have single light transoms bordered by a band of cut-work scallops. No original doors remain and most openings are boarded. The houses sit on high basements lit by a single-light sash. Each front door is reached by five metal or concrete steps set perpendicular to the house.

In the two-room deep floor plan the stairs are set in the center of the house, parallel to the front and rear facades. In a nod to fashionable taste the balustered flight is open to both the front parlor and rear dining room.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanita	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportat	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: spec	

Specific dates 1893

Builder/Architect George and Henry Cook

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant as representing a very plain type of small street house that was constructed to serve as rental housing for the working class residents of the area, most of whom were German at the time of construction. The houses were built by George and Henry Cook, well-known local builders, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 - \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900.

Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties or sold them to other investors. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date June 2000

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 212

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotate Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

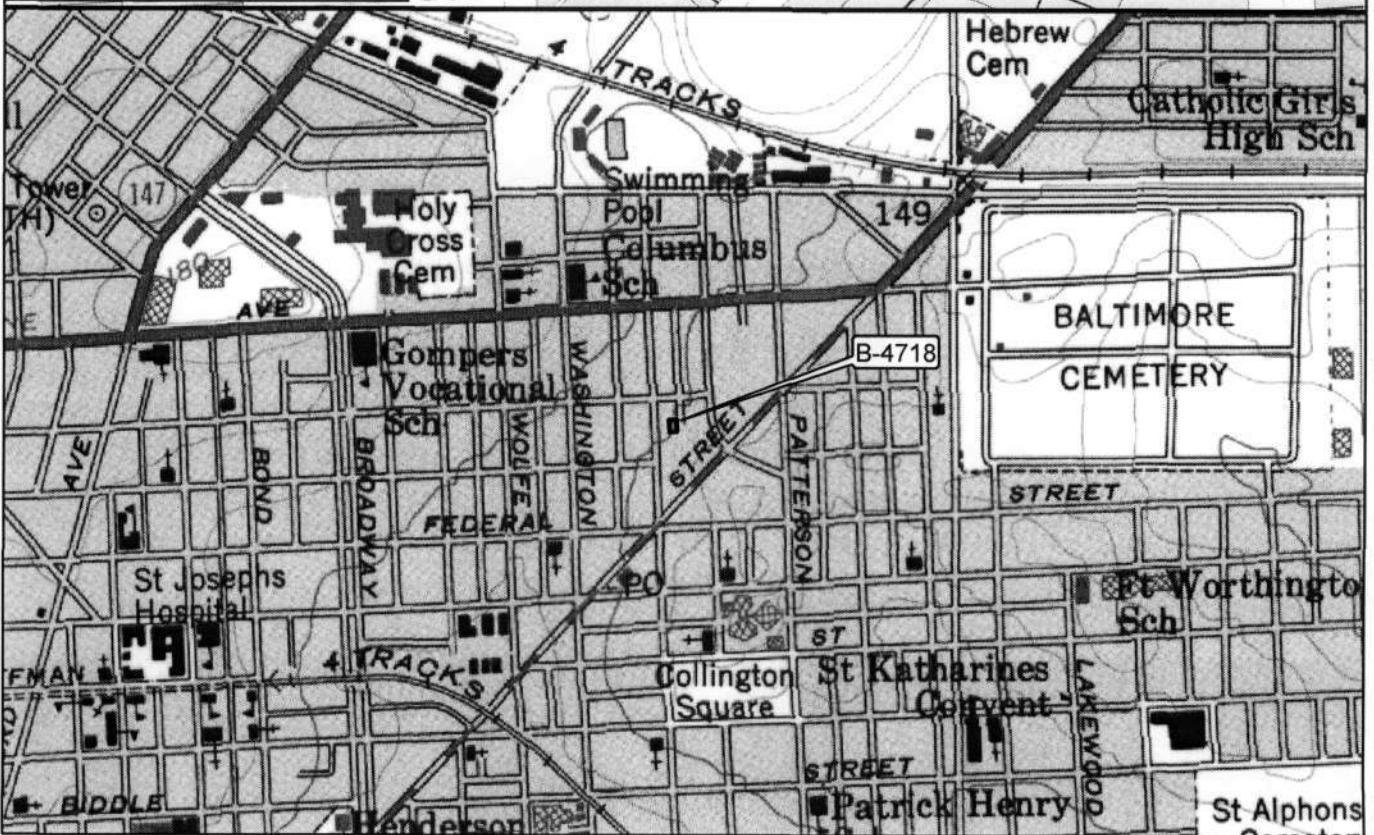
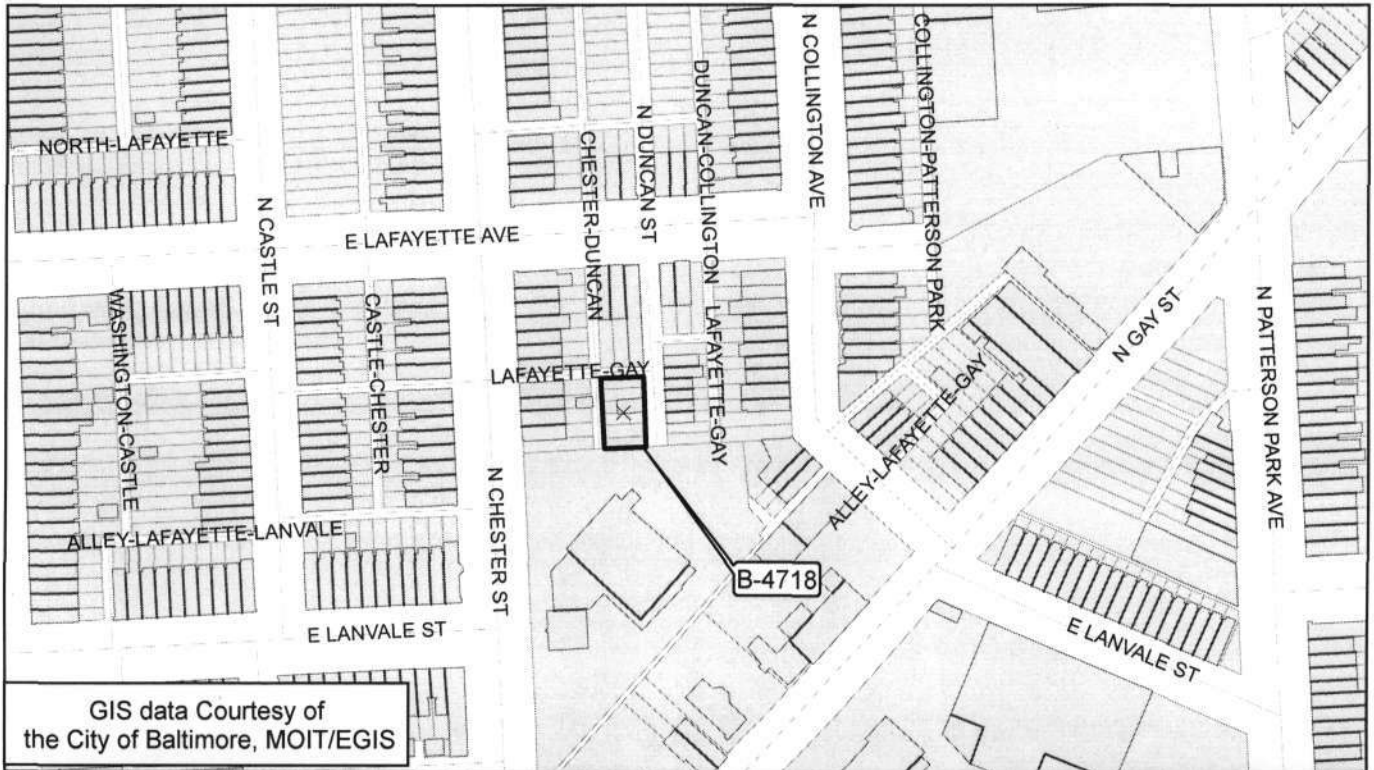
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

FACTOID

135

B-4718
1728-1738 N. Duncan Street
Block 1460, Lots 055-060
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.

Demolished





1728-1738 Darcen
W-8

B-4718

1728-1738 N. Duncan St.

BACTO. 110

h. A. 161d

7/96

MJ SHPO

1/2



1736 Duncan
W-8

B-4718
1736 N. Duncan St.
Baltimore, MD
W. Field
7/96
2/2

155141 0201 0000 0000